



The Guardian

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Justice: King County Style

By Detective Steve Smith, Narcotics

Most everybody reading this article is well aware of the three recent deaths of local police officers at the hands of felons. Felons who should have been serving time in prison but were not. Here is a classic example of a person who should be serving a very long prison sentence but is not.

In the twenty months I've been assigned to the Narcotics Unit, I have worked frequently with the King County Prosecutor's Office and have become very familiar with the "in and outs" of the prosecution of drug offenders. On occasion, I see cases that are not prosecuted for a variety of reasons. Most often, we can be our own worst enemies. The refusal to prosecute by King County Prosecutor's Office can sometimes be due to our actions or inactions. But at other times, a decline in prosecution is due to judicial rules or the futility of trying to convince a jury to convict. Prosecutors will determine that they are not likely to prevail in a trial so they will decline to file charges altogether. Often times excellent police work ends in successful prosecution, but the results of the prosecution does not necessarily constitute justice.

I am not making up the following scenario. The situation I am about to describe is true. It is not my contention to deliberately embarrass anybody. Please draw your own conclusions about whether or not this is justice.

02-14-06; 06-064034: A suspect is stopped in the North end for a traffic violation. The suspect exits his vehicle, armed with a stolen, loaded .40 cal semi-auto Taurus, stuffed in his pants pocket. The alert officer disarms him and search incident to arrest, discovers 192 tabs of Ecstasy. In a subsequent search of the vehicle, the officers find an additional 501 tabs of Ecstasy, 337 grams (12 ounces) of marijuana, and \$1500.00 dollars.

04-06-06; 06-138720: Once again, the same suspect is stopped for a traffic infraction in the North end. The alert officer observes the suspect making furtive movements, prior to pulling over. Subsequently, the officer arrests the suspect who was in possession of a loaded .38 cal handgun and

8.7 grams of Ecstasy. This gun is not stolen, but the suspect tells the officers, twice, that he has to carry it, "for protection." The officers request King County Prosecutor's Office file weapons charges. Initially, the suspect's bail was set at \$5,000. In spite of the fact that the suspect now had two pending cases, which involved large amounts of narcotics and two weapons, Judge Ronald Kessler decided to release him on his own recognizance.

06-03-06; 06-223194 : Yet again, the same suspect is stopped in the North end for traffic infractions. Officers arrest the suspect after finding him to be in possession of a loaded 9mm semi-auto handgun and 1.2 grams of crack cocaine. The suspect told the officers he was armed because people were trying to "kill him." Officers obtain a search warrant for the trunk of the vehicle and discovered 628.6 grams of marijuana (22 ounces). The officers note in their report that the suspect appears to be under the influence of drugs and /or alcohol. The suspect was initially given a \$10,000 bail and promptly bonded out of KCJ.

The suspect then appeared, again, before Judge Ronald Kessler. Apparently, Judge Kessler decided that having three recent arrests all involving weapons, being in possession of over 2 pounds of marijuana, along with 700 tabs of Ecstasy (cumulative), was worthy of rescinding the original \$10,000 bail and releasing the suspect on his own personal recognizance.

I repeatedly contacted the prosecutor's office regarding these cases prior to the suspects scheduled court appearance on 11-02-06. I wanted to make sure that all three cases were coordinated for the purpose of obtaining maximum punishment. I had requested on more than one occasion that a, "message be sent", in light of three arrests with so much dope / weapons. It was my contention that this suspect posed a danger to society and that he should be locked up as long as possible.

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2006 SPOG Officer of the Year



From left to right: President Rich O'Neill, SPOG Officer of the Year Steve Leonard and Vice President Roger Dixon

On March 16th, Officer Steven Leonard of the East Precinct was honored as the 2006 Seattle Police Officers Guild Officer of the Year during the 2007 Seattle Police Motorcycle Drill Team Talent Show.

Officer Leonard was on patrol in the early morning hours of March 25, 2006 when he heard shots being fired in what is now known as the infamous Capitol Hill rampage. Officer Leonard notified radio and began searching the area. A short time later he encountered a group of youths, who were all pointing eastward. Officer Leonard learned from this group that there had been a shooting, got a description of the shooter and his last location and direction of travel. Officer Leonard followed the path of the suspect and used some vegetation to conceal himself. Officer Leonard located the suspect, holding a shotgun and challenged him, ordering him to drop the weapon. The suspect responded by committing suicide.

Officer Leonard's heroic action of choosing to respond and contact the suspect surely prevented additional deaths, as the suspect was well armed and surrounded by numerous potential victims. Not only has Officer Leonard received numerous awards from the city, but his brothers and sisters of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild salute him for his heroic response to one of the city's most tragic events to date. Congratulations to Officer Leonard!

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2949 4th Avenue S.
Seattle, Washington 98134
Phone (206) 767-1150
E-mail: mail@SeattlePoliceGuild.org

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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



This past month was an example of the old saying, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease!" I want to believe that SPOG helped the "squeak" get a little louder. It started when the news came out that numerous felons had been released from the jail because of overcrowding and budgetary issues. This was after SPD had arrested many of those DOC violators during aggressive patrols around the Mardi Gras weekend. SPOG hit the airwaves, along with many outraged citizens complaining about this practice. How can we release violent felons when over the course of the last year, DOC violators have caused the deaths of two Seattle Police Officers and one King County Sheriff's Deputy? Another DOC violator shot and wounded a Seattle Police Officer who is still recovering. When interviewed, I pointed out the irony that police officers are under constant oversight and scrutiny for decisions that they often have to make in an instant. We have layers upon layers of review and oversight to "Monday Morning Quarterback" the decisions of police officers. If you fail to make an arrest, it is reviewed. If you make an arrest, it is reviewed. If you use force, it is reviewed. If you are in an accident, it is reviewed. If you decide to clear the call with a "union" and someone thinks you should have taken a report, it is reviewed. Where is this same scrutiny for the person who releases a felon back into the community? What about the judge who releases a suspect without bail and the suspect re-offends or never shows up for court? How about the person who signs the order allowing a prisoner to get out early for "good behavior" and the prisoner victimizes an innocent civilian within hours of release?

Well, within hours of the outcry, the Governor ordered that this practice will cease immediately and the entire DOC release procedures will be reviewed. DOC has released its report to the governor and it is available on the DOC website. It is clear that mistakes were made. These mistakes cost the lives of three local law enforcement heroes. Nothing will bring them back and nothing will ease the pain felt by their survivors. This revolving door for criminals must end. The spotlight of accountability needs to shine on the entire criminal justice system, not just police officers! We will be watching intently to see what the Governor does next to correct this tragic situation. Bad guys belong in jail! It's not a difficult conclusion.

The next example of the squeaky wheel was the mayor's State of the City Address. *The Guardian* has dedicated numerous articles to the staffing crisis in the police department. Every single citizen's group that I have spoken with has been united in their demand for more police officers. It appears all the e-mails and phone calls are beginning to pay off. The Mayor has just proposed hiring 105 additional police officers over the next five years. This is in addition to our normal attrition rates. What is encouraging is that these officers are to be used exclusively for patrol. We have often heard the tired old song that "patrol is the backbone of the department." This proposal is a major first step in finally giving patrol more than just "lip service." There will be challenges. First and foremost is finding, hiring and training the new officers. I have told many in the press that this is really a "recruit's market." Many departments are hiring and some have "sweetened the pot" for new hires with bonuses, take home cars, education incentives, etc. A new recruit can sit back and analyze which agency is offering the best deal. Now that the city has acknowledged the staffing crisis, they need to take the next step and make SPD the department that offers the best deal! The next challenge will come when the economic forecast turns gloomy. Will the city leaders stick to the hiring plan or will they slash the SPD budget and abandon the hiring plan? Will they stand up to the fringe groups and tell them that public safety is off limits? Will they have the political courage to deny the request for more self-cleaning toilets or more wood chips for the zoo? Only time will tell. For now, this is a positive step. Will 105 new hires solve the staffing crisis? No, but it is my hope that after the patrol ranks are brought up to a safe level, we can then focus on restoring the other units which have been neglected over the past two decades. Patrol has suffered the most and it is long past due for patrol to be restored. SPOG will also be tracking the hiring and deployment of officers to patrol. It is not that we are suspicious, but in the words of the late President Reagan, "Trust, but Verify!"

This coming month, SPOG will be represented at some national police labor conferences. On April 12-14, Officer Mike Severance will be a guest speaker at the National Coalition of Public Safety Officers in Reno, Nevada. Mike was invited to speak on the police staffing crisis. As all of you know, Mike has done extensive research on the SPD staffing issue and it is an honor that the NCPSO has invited him. Sgt. Ty Elster will accompany Mike and take part in the labor discussion. On April 19-22, Sgt. Roger Dixon and I will be traveling to the Big 50 Conference at Harvard University in Boston, MA. This is a conference for the 50 biggest police unions in the United States. Some of the topics will include labor/management relations and effective contract negotiations. Roger and I will also hear directly from other police union leaders on the challenges they face in their organizations.

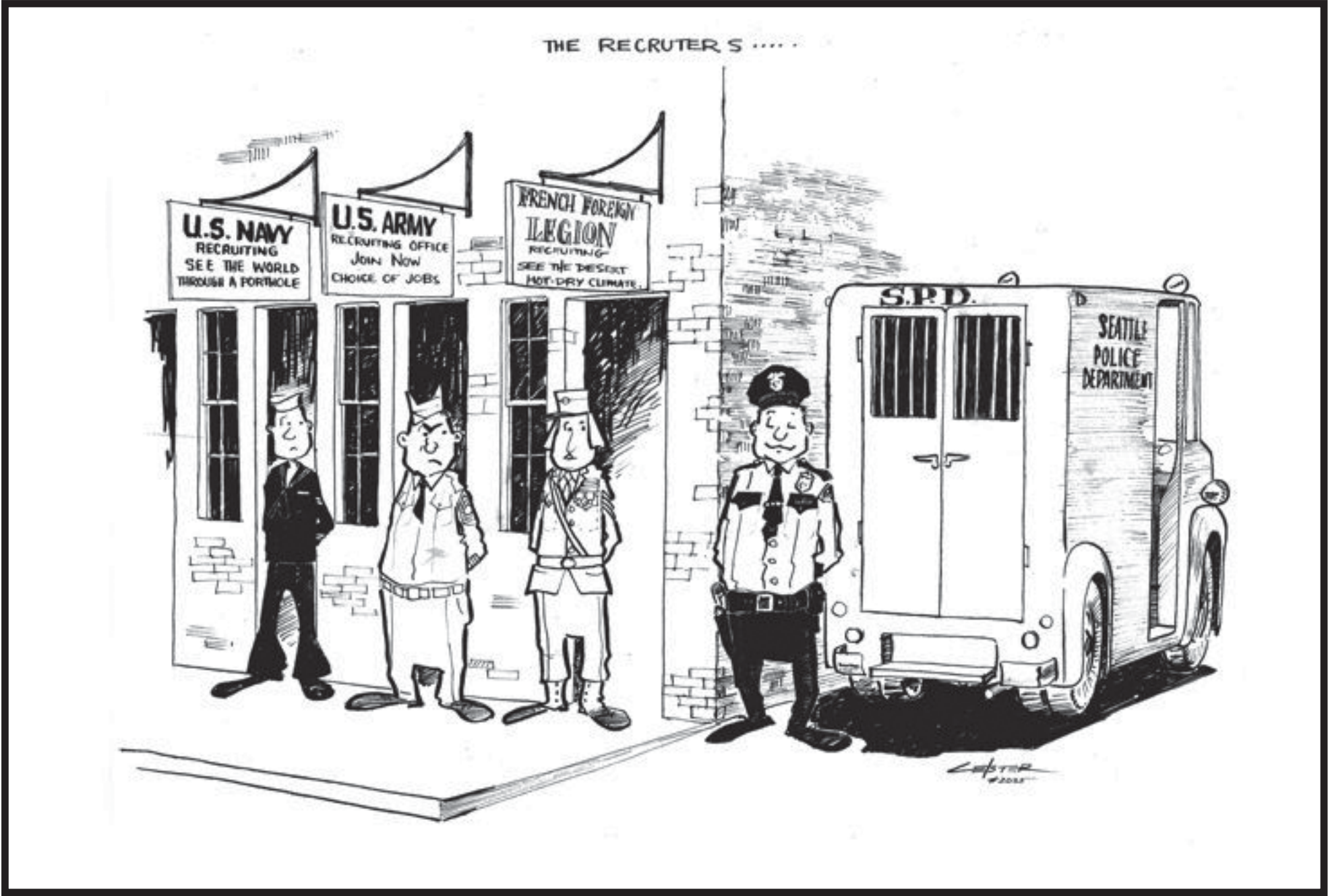
The SPOG PAC Campaign is moving along. After just 6 weeks, over 15% of our members have already joined the PAC. Although this is a great start, we need to increase the participation so it includes the majority of our members! Please contact any SPOG board member for a payroll deduction form or more information. This fund will help us influence those who vote on YOUR WAGES, BENEFITS, and WORKING CONDITIONS! We can't stand on the sidelines any longer! Join the PAC!

Speaking of your wages, the city and SPOG are still in mediation. The process has been cordial but it is moving very slowly. Next month, I hope to be able to report on some progress. Stand-by!

I'd like to close this month by discussing a recent article that appeared in *The Guardian* and to remind everyone of *The Guardian's* editorial policy. This paper could not survive without our advertisers and without the members who contribute articles. Articles submitted for publication can be published, edited or rejected. No one has a "right" to have their article published. Recently, we have received many positive comments about the quality of the articles and the paper in general, but last month an article appeared that should have been edited. We published a member's article about a police pursuit that he witnessed and his opinion that the situation amounted to "buffoonery." I respect the fact that everyone is entitled to their opinion and no names were mentioned, but there were enough details presented in the article that left little doubt who was the involved sergeant. When I left patrol my squad presented me with a plaque entitled, "The Terminator" because of my tendency to halt pursuits. I told my squad that I could think of a few scenarios where I would let one continue, but the circumstances would be rare. I made those decisions very simply to protect my squad from unnecessary discipline and lawsuits should the pursuit turn ugly. It is a fact of life in modern day police work. If you chase and nasty things happen, this department will come after you! I was not about to let that happen to one of my officers. We can all question the intelligence of having a pursuit policy in print for all the criminals to see, but we should not question someone's "common sense" for terminating the pursuit. According to some at the scene, the article also omitted some important and relevant facts. The article should have been edited to remove specific identifiers, so the involved individuals would be "more anonymous." The article also could have focused more on the department pursuit policy. I don't want *The Guardian* to ever become a "Rah-Rah Fluff Review," but we should still respect the privacy of all our dues-paying members. Until next month, be there for each other!

The Call Box

By Clark Elster, SPD Retired



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board pos2@seattlepoliceguild.org



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Mike Severance
boardpos5@seattlepoliceguild.org



Position 6
Randy Robinson
boardpos6@seattlepoliceguild.org



Position 7
Ben Hughey
boardpos7@seattlepoliceguild.org



Position 8
Ty Elster
boardpos8@seattlepoliceguild.org



Position 9
Deb Nicholson
boardpos9@seattlepoliceguild.org



Position 10
Jim Brakebill
boardpos10@seattlepoliceguild.org

Justice: King County Style

Continued from page 1

11-02-06: The suspect appeared before the Honorable Judge Kenneth Comstock. He agreed to plead guilty to several of the charges. There were no charges filed for the possession of any weapons. There were no charges filed for possession of stolen property. There were no charges filed for the possession or the possession with intent to deliver the marijuana. Judge Comstock sentenced the defendant to 20 months for the first case and 6 months, each, for the second and third cases. Judge Comstock ordered that the sentences be served concurrent, not consecutive. Here in Washington, the sentence for these particular crimes in these particular circumstances are automatically reduced by ½ at the time of sentencing. According to a source from the DOC this suspect will serve approximately 9-10 months for these crimes.

I was told by one prosecutor that the reason weapons and PSP charges were not filed in case 06-064034 was because, “there was overwhelming proof problems regarding whether the suspect had knowledge that the gun was stolen.” Another prosecutor told me that weapons charges were not filed on the other two cases because, “the law requires that we prove a nexus

between the gun and the crime, not merely available for use or present.”

The bottom line is this: If you are a drug dealer in King County, and you have yet to officially obtain your first felony conviction, by all means, arm yourself with a weapon. We all *know* that there is “no nexus between drug dealers and guns.” If you do not have access to any old handgun, obtain a stolen firearm. You won’t get prosecuted for it. It would be difficult to “prove beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant knew the gun was stolen.” Also, make sure be in possession of a drug like Ecstasy or crack cocaine, that way you won’t get charged with being in possession of 2 pounds of high-grade marijuana. Not to worry.

If you do manage to get arrested, just hope to appear before the Honorable Ronald Kessler. He will be more than happy to release you on personal recognizance, even if you have three prior arrests for drugs and weapons, all within the last 4 months. And when you finally appear in court for sentencing, again no need to worry. Appear before the Honorable Judge Kenneth Comstock and you will get a whopping 9-10 months with all your sentences being served concurrently and only the minimum mandatory fine.

Be careful out there!

Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officers of the Month for April 2007 are Officers Mike Lewis of the Canine Unit, Officer Mike Renner of the Traffic Unit and Police Dog Axel. They were nominated by Sergeant Joel Sweetland for their actions when a “routine” traffic stop became a life and death event.

On February 1, 2007, Officer Raleigh Evans conducted a traffic stop on I-5. Additional units arrived and the passenger was removed from the vehicle. Officer Evans approached the driver, and believing he was intoxicated, asked the driver to exit the vehicle so he could begin conducting SFST’s. The driver refused to get out of the car and was ordered out of the car. At this point, the passenger began fighting with other Officers and the driver accelerated towards Officer Renner. Officers Renner and Lewis (with PD Axel) began pursuing the vehicle until the pursuit was terminated and taken over by other agencies. A short time later, the vehicle was forced to stop by another agency. Officer Lewis & Axel were on scene in case of a foot pursuit and Officer Renner had been following to give directions to inbound units from other agencies. When the vehicle crashed, the driver began revving the engine in an attempt to continue fleeing. Another agency fired a less lethal round into the car and the revving stopped, but not before the vehicle caught fire near the trunk. Officers Renner and Lewis, exhibiting extreme bravery, led a contact team to the driver’s door of the burning car, where they forced entry and removed the driver from the vehicle. The suspect was suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, and Officers Renner and Lewis, both EMT’s, began performing immediate first aid and took all possible action to save the individual that had just moments before tried to run Officer Renner down. Sergeant Sweetland noted that despite the suspect’s decision to take his own life, “the suspect driver could have easily burned to death inside his vehicle while numerous officers stood by and watched. That

is not what happened. Thanks to the courageous and instantaneous actions of Officers Lewis and. Renner, the suspect driver was saved from a burning vehicle and provided immediate medical attention.”

It was later determined that both occupants were convicted felons under DOC supervision. Despite Officer Lewis’ and Officer Renner’s best efforts, the driver died from his injuries. This incident demonstrates how a “routine” traffic stop can dynamically evolve into a deadly encounter. Had the responding officers not exhibited professionalism and command presence, who knows when the gun may have come out? An excellent job by all officers involved, but especially Officer Lewis and Renner who were able to immediately switch gears from trying to apprehend a dangerous fleeing felon to a role of trying to save the same individual’s life.

Also nominated this month:

Officers Casey Sundin and Dan Enriquez of the East Precinct were nominated by Sergeant Vince Guballa for their actions with a suicidal woman. This woman was holding two knives, one to her own throat, and begging the officers to kill her. The officers, realizing the gravity of the situation, decided to take immediate action and put themselves in imminent danger by each taking an arm of the woman and forcing the knives away from her. They successfully disarmed the woman and she was transported to HMC for evaluation.

Detective John Crumb of West Burglary/Theft was nominated by Detective Sergeant Pat Hayes for his actions in recovering a preserved kidney that had been stolen from *Bodies, The Exhibit*, a story that made national news. Detective Crumb, acting on a tip, was able to recover the kidney and charge a suspect with theft. Detective Crumb was also able to get a statement where the suspect admitted stealing the kidney.

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Res:.....206-937-8873

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Promises Made

By Officer Mike Severance, Board Position 5

If my memory has not failed me, the current North Precinct opened for business in June, 1984. It is built on a bog which is why it has a sump pump running 24/7 to prevent it from flooding and possibly sinking into a bottomless abyss. Before the City could begin construction of the North Precinct, it had to file an Environmental Impact Statement. The City promised the residents living around the precinct that they would not be adversely impacted by the operations of the precinct. I think there was specific language regarding officers parking their private vehicles on the streets surrounding the precinct, but I am not positive. That is why I am attempting to obtain a copy of that document. Officer parking was not a problem in 1984 because we lowly worker bees were allowed to park inside the boundaries of the precinct. Officer parking inside the precinct boundaries ended by order of a former Acting Precinct Commander. While sergeants, lieutenants, and the captain can still park inside, officers cannot. A former Precinct Commander allowed some relief for 3rd Watch officers because he thought it senseless to have a half dozen detective parking slots sit empty all night rather than allow officers to use them on a first come basis. The North Precinct is the largest police precinct in the largest city in Washington. It is the only SPD precinct which does not have secured parking for the officers assigned to it. And the taxpayers living around the precinct are being adversely impacted by officers parking their private vehicles on the streets.

In one area just north and west of the precinct, many officers have had their vehicles vandalized (some more than once). It would appear that some resident(s) are unhappy with the situation. Officers are competing for a parking place with students at North Seattle Community College who are attending both day and night classes. Is there a solution? The easiest solution would be for the city to honor its promises. There is a big piece of city property just south of the gas pumps which could easily provide parking for a large number of officers' vehicles.

The city of its on volition will never seek to honor its promise made. I doubt that SPD management gives a hoot. Neither the officers assigned to the precinct nor the Guild has any legal standing to force the city to honor its promise to the taxpayers in the area. Only those taxpayers residing around the precinct have the legal standing to force the city to take action. Sadly, I doubt those taxpayers even know that they hold this power in their hands.

A serious crisis involving our portable radios has developed. We were all to be issued new portable radios last year or early this year. That isn't going to happen. We might get them in 2008 or 2009. "So what" you say. The city/department has stopped ordering spare parts for the portable radios we have

now. How does one fix a non-functional portable radio if there are no spare parts? I guess it's just another master stroke of planning by planners who would never have to depend upon a portable radio for anything.

I was watching a local news broadcast last month. Several Chiefs of Police from surrounding agencies were meeting with one of our state's U.S. Senators to discuss the auto theft epidemics in their jurisdictions. I wondered why they were meeting with a U.S. Senator instead of coming to Seattle and talking to our Chief because he says that car prowls and auto thefts in Seattle are down significantly. According to the Chief, there were 8,138 (22 per day in the whole city) auto thefts in Seattle in 2006 compared to 9,556 in 2005. That is a 14.8% decrease according to the numbers quoted, but the figures keep changing. KIRO TV recently reported that auto thefts in Seattle are down 30%. Are there any street cops besides me who are having a hard time swallowing this?

My skepticism is based upon several things. I work the street. I know how many times, just during my shift, that information on another stolen vehicle is sent to my computer screen. I know that I must replace my supply of Vehicle Reports two or three times more often than before. I know that after the first six months of 2006, the Chief announced that auto thefts were down 27% compared to the first six months of 2005, but, at the same time, auto theft calls were the 5th most frequent call to 911. In 2005, auto thefts were the 8th most frequent call to 911. As Robbie the Robot would say, "Does not compute".

The biggest reason for my skepticism is the department's pursuit policy. For a long time, I foolishly believed the new pursuit policy was based upon the totality of circumstances. My insane reasoning came to an end early one morning when I initiated a pursuit of a felon in a stolen car under what were the most ideal pursuit conditions I had ever encountered during my career. Three and a half miles into the pursuit, radio was able to communicate with my sergeant who inquired as to the reason for the pursuit. When he was told it was a stolen vehicle, he immediately ordered the pursuit terminated. Later, in the precinct, my sergeant clarified the pursuit policy for me. He told me the only person in a vehicle that I could pursue was an axe murderer, and only if he/she still had the axe. I have never encountered an axe murderer in the last 39 years. So I think I can safely say that I will never be involved in another pursuit.

We are forbidden to pursue felons in stolen vehicles, and, for that matter, in most vehicles. The auto thieves know we cannot chase them. If our department policy has removed 99% of the chance that an auto thief in Seattle will be apprehended, then why would

they suddenly stop doing what they do best? Surrounding agencies whose officers can pursue felons in stolen vehicles are having an auto theft epidemic. But in Seattle, auto thefts are down?

Sorry, Chief. I would desperately like to believe that your numbers are correct, but it just doesn't compute.

I want to say "Thanks" to Officer Chris Garrett for his great article in last month's *Guardian*, and I would like to expand on it just a little. In non-criminal investigations, IIS has 180 days from the time the complaint is received until the Chief sends you a personal letter with his finding, and, if sustained, his proposed discipline. This 180 day time limit is in the contract. But there is no set time limit covering from the point at which the Chief issues his finding and proposed discipline to the time he issues his final decision on discipline. Some officers are still waiting for the Chief's final decision, and they have been waiting for a long, long time.

The last sustained IIS complaint I had was a sustained EEO complaint for Workplace Harassment Retaliation. You are probably wondering what heinous act I committed. I sent the Chief of Police a Public Disclosure Request asking for public records which I wanted to use to defend myself against allegations in the original Workplace Harassment complaint.

IIS and the Chief met the 180 day deadline. The Chief's discipline was a written reprimand (which cannot be appealed). My Letter of Reprimand was given to me at the same time I received the Chief's letter containing his sustained finding and final discipline. I could not believe my eyes. I could not believe I had been convicted of misconduct for exercising a right granted to every person in the state. But the biggest reason for my disbelief was SPD Manual section 1.129 (III) (F). Before administering discipline in an EEO complaint, the Chief was mandated to insure that I had been given the

opportunity to review the results of the investigation, been told of the evidence obtained, and had the opportunity to provide my response to the allegations. The Chief of Police had violated SPD policy, and he had done it in writing.

I knew the Chief of Police would never be investigated for violating policy, something we are disciplined for regularly, but I could not resist the temptation of seeing how the department would kiss it off. So I sent my complaint off to OPA with its irrefutable documentation. It did not take very long to receive a reply. There would be no investigation. The Chief was not guilty of any misconduct. It was simply a **procedural imperfection**. I hope you will all remember that term at your next IIS interview.

The latest Personnel Order did not come out in time for *The Guardian* deadline, so I will catch up on the staffing figures next time.

Be safe out there.



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Police Leaders Hail Court Rulings

By Kristin Bender, www.nacole.org
(article reprinted with author's permission)

BERKELEY — Police leaders Tuesday said a judge’s decision to close public hearings of misconduct complaints validates officers’ long-standing position that their personnel matters shouldn’t be aired in front of the community. In a lengthy decision released Friday, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Winifred Smith ruled in favor of the Berkeley Police Association, which filed a lawsuit against the city five years ago to close the public hearings of the city’s Police Review Commission.

”(Berkeley police) appreciate that someone finally recognized that there should be confidentiality,” said Henry Wellington, president of the Berkeley Police Association. “We’ve all unanimously felt strongly that these aren’t the kind of things that should be disclosed to the general public.”

While police spokesman Ed Galvan called the decision a “huge day for law enforcement in general,” Berkeley Copwatch is mounting a campaign to become the “main repository of information on police misconduct,” Copwatch member Bram Draper said.

”We will have to reconfigure our strategy because we refer people to the PRC. ... It’s hard to say whether Copwatch, in good conscience, can continue to refer people to private inquiries,” Draper said.

The judge’s decision, released to the public Monday, follows a California Supreme Court decision last year that ruled all personnel matters involving police, including misconduct cases, are not public.

That case involved a fired San Diego County sheriff’s deputy who argued records of the deputy’s appeal to the county Civil Service Commission were confidential.

Berkeley, as well as Oakland and San Francisco, had stopped public police review hearings following the Supreme Court ruling.

City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque, who called the decision a sad day for public accountability, will meet with the City Council on Tuesday to discuss whether to appeal.

In the meantime, the Police Review Commission is still a functioning

board.

”We continue to fully investigate all complaints against Berkeley police, and we continue to investigate the criminal intelligence and evidence theft policy issues in the department,” commission Officer Victoria Urbi said.

Berkeley police have been looking at revising some policies after a police sergeant tampered with evidence for his own personal drug use.

Berkeley City Councilmember Kriss Worthington called the judge’s decision a “step backwards in public accountability.”

”The more obstacles we put in the way, the less likely people will raise their legitimate complaints,” Worthington said.

For 30 years, the commission has been investigating complaints of excessive force, improper arrest, search, stop and detention, discourtesy, discrimination, improper citation or tow and other issues during public meetings Wednesday nights.

The person who filed the complaint and anyone else could attend the meetings, which are at the North and South Berkeley Senior Centers.

In 2006, the commission received 34 cases, and 34 cases were closed, although some were from the prior year.

Police don’t object to the oversight process, only that the complaints aren’t handled privately.

Draper from Copwatch disagrees.

”We know that police officers in taking their jobs are vowing to be public servants,” Draper said. “Therefore, in taking on a public service job, especially one that entails so much risk and power, it’s known full well that they are giving up some of their rights of privacy.”

Other government employees do not have misconduct cases aired in the public arena. However, if allegations against them are found to be true and discipline is imposed, some details of the case can be revealed under state law.

Contract accepted by 94%

The membership of the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild has voted to accept the City’s contract offer with 94% of those responding voting to approve the package. The final official count showed 629 voting yes and 40 no.

The final tally included valid returns received subsequent to the initial count made November 9th which showed similar support for the contract which offered a 7.6% wage increase this year and a 90% cost of living increase effective September 1.

Five-hundred and thirty-two (532) votes had been counted at that time.

Hopefully initial payment of retroactive will appear on the next paycheck

The contract vote was conducted by the Guild Election Committee.

Members interested in viewing the complete contract settlement may do so in the Guild office.

April Fools! This article is our History Corner article which appeared in the September 1974 edition of *The Guardian*

Letter to the Editor

It was January 2nd, 1954. Seattle had just annexed from 110th North to 145th and hired 90 new police officers. The starting wage was raised to a whopping \$325.00 a month. Thirty could be handled at a time, so classes 30,31 and 32 were to be formed.

The Seattle Police Academy at that time was two classrooms in the Public Safety Building, the outdoor range and the use of the pool at the YMCA. The instructors were experienced Seattle officers and a couple of FBI Agents. I was to be in class 32, which would mean the 30 men of that class work the streets for 6 months before attending the academy.

Classes then were 3 months long. We were given a two day origination during which time we were assigned a badge number, a service revolver and given a copy of the Seattle City street guide. We were assigned to different units in the department, mine being 3 wheelers in traffic as I had several years of experience riding motorcycles.

With that many new officers at one time, the job of getting a complete uniform put together was not an easy task. Thanks to several plain clothes officers on the department loaning articles of uniform to the new men, we were able to get by. This was prior to the days of bullet proof vests, motorcycle helmets, communication devices other then car radios (and they could not always be relied on) or anything other than department issued revolvers for uniformed personnel.

I worked 21 years and 3 months for the department, retiring on April 1st, 1975. During my time I worked patrol cars, traffic cars, motorcycles, warrant service, special squad (early day tact squad), boys juvenile and the harbor unit. I feel the job was always a learning experience, that no one would ever learn it all.

We had good support from both the city fathers and the department brass. It is really a shame to read in *The Guardian* each month about all the bickering that goes on between the street troops and the ones who have forgotten what it is like to be on the street. Also, it sounds as if the powers to be, are anything but on your side.

Take care and watch your partners back.

Bob Armstrong, SPD Retired

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Melisa Devine ~Wife of SPD Sergeant
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To view my online catalog go to:
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Important Date!!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 25th

at 2000 hours

Complimentary Dinner

All Members Welcome

Your Seattle Police Foundation

By Mike Burns, SPD Reserve Officer and
Seattle Police Foundation Board Member

I wanted to write this article to make sure everyone knows exactly what the Seattle Police Foundation is and what it is all about. The Seattle Police Foundation was established in 2002 by a distinguished group of Seattle business leaders. The goals of the Foundation are to support the Department by funding projects in the areas of training, technology, equipment, communication, and community partnerships and to publicly recognize the good work of police officers.

The Foundation does not in any way reduce the responsibility of the City of Seattle to fund basic law enforcement. In fact the Foundation enhances and supplements the Departments existing budget. The Foundation prides itself on directing nearly 85 percent of its monies to the funding of grants and programs that are brought to the board members by Seattle Police employees.

The Foundation’s primary source of income is from the annual awards banquet it sponsors each fall. Corporate sponsors pay as much as \$30,000 to support the banquet. In addition to the large corporate sponsors, many medium and small businesses, as well as supportive individuals contribute. The Foundation also holds a yearly “Bootcamp” where citizens participate in various aspect of Police work. This not only raises funds but also makes the participants aware of how difficult your job is.

Some of you have had the chance to make a presentation to the board and see what an outstanding group of business and community leaders are involved. These are busy executives and community leaders that donate their time, leadership, and money for one reason, TO SUPPORT THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT!

As an officer myself I know how it can seem as if you are not always appreciated or supported within the community. I wish every one of you could share the experiences I have

had as a member of the Seattle Police Foundation. You would know firsthand how much the leaders in your community really care! The next time you think no one cares about Police officers in Seattle, think again. I found that there is tremendous support in the business and private sector; previously there just wasn’t an avenue for them to show it. With the Foundation, there now is.

I also want to mention the tremendous work of Renee Cunningham and Chief Kerlikowske whose efforts are tireless.

Below are some of the grants funded over the last three years.

- Placement of AED (Automatic External Defibrillators) in all patrol cars
- Purchase of Honor Guard uniforms
- Assistance in constructing Park 90/5 gym
- Funding for Blackberries
- Purchase of three Police dogs
- Purchase of two Police horses
- Six AGA communication diving masks
- SWAT ballistic shield and shin guards
- Rofin Polilight PL-500 (CSI)
- Stop sticks
- Ballistic armor enhancement
- ACT weapon lights and tactical outer vests
- Bait cars
- Range monitoring cameras
- Mobile kitchen equipment

There are many more projects I could list and, most importantly, many more to be funded in the future! If you haven’t already done so, I would strongly encourage you to get involved by applying for a grant or attending one of the Foundation’s events. You can learn more about the Foundation and what we do at www.seattlepolicefoundation.org

Be safe, and see you at the banquet on October 26th!

Competitors Needed

The “Bacon Bowl Association” is sponsoring the First Annual

Fists and Cuffs

Law Enforcement Amateur Boxing Challenge!!

100% of all proceeds go to children’s charities!!!

June 2nd 2007, 19:00 hrs
Emerald Queen Casino
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

Interested Competitors Please e-mail:
Detective Chris Taylor – Tacoma Police Department
Email: ctaylor2@ci.tacoma.wa.us

~ or ~
Deputy Patrick McCurdy –King County Sheriff’s Office
Email: patrick.mccurdy@metrokc.gov

Boxing matches will be fought following USABoxing.org Amateur rules. Headgear, Gloves, Jersey & Shorts will be provided. Competitors must provide their own athletic supporter, mouth guard and shoes. Boxers will be categorized by age and weight, and relative experience, and will not fight another person from their own agency. Fights will be:
(3) 3 minute rounds – under 35 yrs old
(3) 1 ½ minute rounds – 35-49 yrs old
(3) 1 minute rounds 0 50+ yrs old.
Training by Certified USA Boxing coaches will be provided. All fighters must attend 10 training sessions within 30 days.
See: “Tacoma Boxing Club” & “Bumblebee Boxing” Seattle for more information.
Live a little! Do what you’ve always wanted to do! Just this once!!

Do you have an upcoming IIS Interview?
Contact SPOG now to schedule a rep!
206-767-1150 or online at www.seattlepoliceguild.org

Verizon Wireless Notice

Important Information for Members with Verizon Wireless Service

Some SPOG members and retired officers with Verizon Wireless service may have received a notification from Verizon Wireless about the steps you need to take to update the billing responsibility on your account.

Those who received notification have the name of the Seattle Police Officers Guild as the billing responsible party listed on their account rather than their own name. The Guild is in the process of working with Verizon Wireless to migrate all accounts who list the Guild as the responsible party. Because of this, you will need to establish a private account in your own name in order to keep your service.

If you have received a letter from Verizon Wireless you must take action regarding your account immediately and no later than May 23, 2007 in order to avoid service disconnection.

To take action, complete the Transfer of Billing Responsibility Form that was included with your notification from Verizon Wireless. Or for more details or to complete this process over the phone call 1-800-922-0204.

You will be receiving notification from the Guild within 6-8 weeks after migrating your service that will address the balance of any deposits that you may or may not hold with the Guild. Please do not call the Guild office directly regarding your deposit status. If you have any questions, please e-mail the Guild at cellphone@seattlepoliceguild.org.

The **SPOG Member Workstation** IS up and running

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The Puzzle Guy

By Steve Knechtel, SPD Retired

A number of years back, my former hunting partner called me up to tell me about a guy he met while hunting. Sam told me that he'd just gotten back to his camp and was fixing some food when there was a knock on the camper door, that when he opened the door there was an older guy standing there who proceeded to give him a "nail puzzle". This is one of those puzzles where the nails are bent and connected together and you have to figure out how to take them apart without forcing them. I asked who the guy was and what his program was, but Sam didn't know anymore than the fact that the guy just liked giving out these puzzles. Sam didn't even know his name and just called him the "Puzzle Guy".

A couple of years later I was over in the Oak Creek Game Range scouting for Turkeys. I was driving down one of the spur roads when a pickup coming the other way stopped and this guy got out and came walking up to my truck. He asked if we'd ever met and when I said "no", he proceeded to give me a nail puzzle and my hunting partner a different puzzle in which you had to figure out how to remove a piece of string from a piece of wood. Didn't take me long to figure out that this was the "Puzzle Guy" that Sam had talked about. Every year since then we've seen the "Puzzle Guy" and he has never failed to stop by our camp and give us a couple of his latest puzzles. In talking to other hunting camps we've learned that just about every camp up there knows the "Puzzle Guy" and have puzzles he has given them.

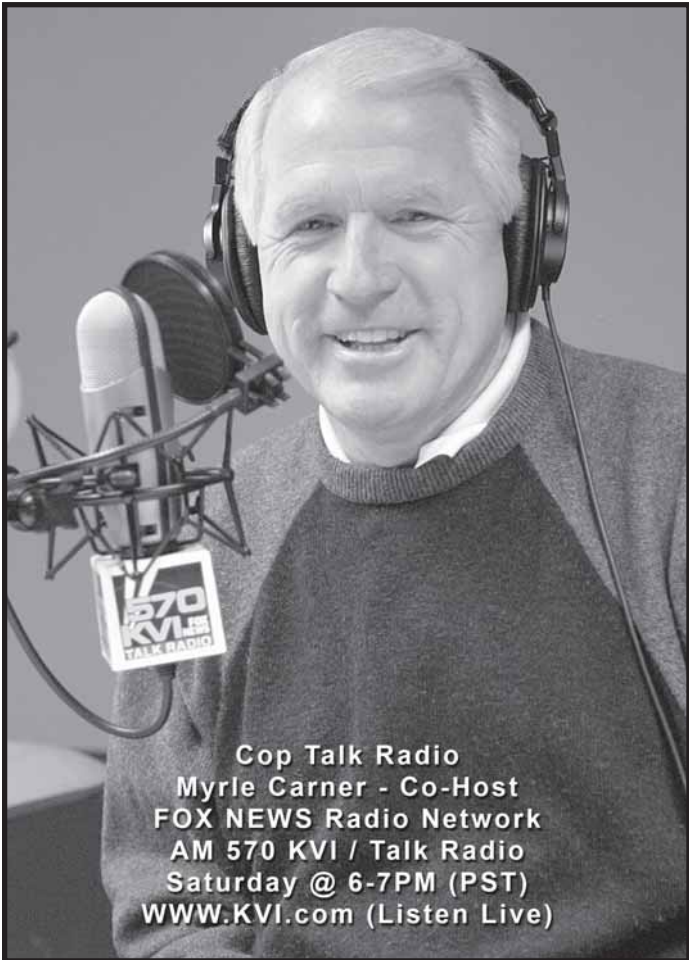
Last year when the puzzle guy stopped by our camp we invited him to breakfast and served him Eggs Benedict. This year he stopped by on our first day in camp, handed out his latest puzzle and immediately started asking if we were going to have "that egg dish you fed me last year" again. We told him that we were and invited him for breakfast at 10 AM on Monday morning. The best laid plans of mice and men always go awry. Monday morning found my hunting partner and I trying to drag out an elk. I headed back to camp to get our pack boards and upon arriving was met by the Puzzle Guy who was waiting for breakfast. I told him that I was sorry, but we had an elk to deal with and breakfast would have to be another day. The Puzzle Guy then said he was going with me to help pack out the elk. Long story short, by the time we had hiked

over a mile back in (mostly uphill) I had learned that the Puzzle Guy was 74 years old, that he was in better shape than I was and that his name is Leonard Bisel (pronounced BuySell). With Leonard's help we were able to get the elk back to camp and taken care of.

The following Wednesday when Leonard stopped by we were able to properly thank him for his help and fix him Eggs Benedict. Over breakfast we learned that Leonard was raised in the Yakima area, that he knew and rode motorcycles with Bob (Evel) Knievel, that he currently lives in Selah and to lose some weight was in the process of using a push mower to mow ten acres, that he is a basic jack of all trades and that he has been handing out puzzles and driving around the mountains every year since he retired 12 years ago. That he has cleaned up trash in the mountains, built outhouses for campers and hunters to use, repaired forest service shelters and has counted Spotted Owls for the government. Leonard said that he figures he has given out more than 100,000 nail puzzles and has handed them out from Yakima to Ocean Shores, in Westport and once while on a flight back from Hawaii gave a nail puzzle to every passenger on the plane. Kind of like a modern day Johnny Appleseed, only he hands out fun toys instead of planting apple seeds.

It wouldn't surprise me to find out that some of you may have already met Leonard. If you have then you have experienced one of the rare pleasures in life, that of meeting a truly nice person. If you haven't met Leonard I can only wish you the good fortune of doing so in the future. He just wants to give pleasure and asks nothing in return, although he REALLY likes Eggs Benedict.

Keep a tight line!



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“This is Your Life” Surprise Party for
Officer Wes Ferris of the North Precinct
Saturday May 12th, 2007 @ 1930 hours
Greenwood Boys and Girls Club
8635 Fremont Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103

There will be a catered meal, door prizes and
chances to tell stories about Wes!
Please plan to attend and make
this a memorable evening for Wes!
Please RSVP NLT April 30th to Ruthie Ferris at 206-714-9510
if you are planning to attend!

The Guild actively urges its members to write articles for publication in *The Guardian*. The newspaper cannot survive without membership contributions.
All articles submitted for publication will be accepted subject to editorial review and changes. The editor shall retain the decision to publish, not publish, or edit an article. The editor's decision to publish or not publish an article can be appealed to the editorial board, which shall have final and binding decision making authority over the publication of the article. Articles appearing under an author's byline do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild.

All *Guardian* submissions are due
by April 15, 2007
to spoguardian@yahoo.com



Happy Anniversary

The *Guardian* Staff is pleased to
announce the milestones achieved by
the following SPOG members during the
month of April!



20 Years of Service

- Sergeant Grant Tietje, SPOC
- Sergeant Mike Devine, Narcotics
- Sergeant Dave Unger, East Precinct
- Sergeant Bill Waltz, South Precinct
- Detective Mel Britt, B/T East
- Detective Linda Diaz, Narcotics
- Detective Sheldon Sather, Narcotics
- Detective Pete Sicilia, Narcotics
- Detective Dave Ogard, Bias Crimes
- Officer Cricket Bonner, Peer Support
- Officer Dean Cass, Audit and Accreditation
- Officer Mark Henry, West Precinct
- Officer Al Lopez, West Precinct
- Officer Mike Washington, East Precinct
- Officer Jim Campbell, Motors
- Officer Tom Fitzgerald, SWAT
- Officer Jay Moyer, K9
- Officer Joel Nark, Southwest Precinct

5 years of Service

- Officer James Britt, East Precinct
- Officer Rafael Martinez, East Precinct
- Officer Shawn Benshoof, South Precinct
- Officer Jeff Kappel, Media Response
- Officer Kevin Nelson, Southwest Precinct
- Officer Steve Owings, West Precinct
- Officer Aaron Parker, West Precinct

Retired News

By Mike Germann

New Retirements

This month, there are four new Seattle Police Department retirees to publish:

- o Three LEOFF I officers
- o One LEOFF II officer

LEOFF I members retiring are:

- o **Jack E. Meduna**, #3700, Seattle Police Officer-Patrol/Hostage Negotiator, retired for service after 34 years on March 26, 2007;
*I want to say here and now that Jack Meduna is probably one of the top three all time best negotiators that the Seattle Police Department ever produced.
- o **Craig S. Vold**, #3294, Seattle Police Officer-Patrol/Detective, retired for service after 37 years and 2 months on March 27, 2007;
- o **Larry L. Nolting**, #3029, Seattle Police Officer-Patrol, retired for service after 36 years of LEOFF I service and another year and 2 months of Police Cadet time.

Messages from these three of Seattle’s finest listed above follow, in their own words:

- o **Jack Meduna:** Jack (Tuna) Meduna #3700 Seattle Police Officer last assigned to Patrol, Southwest Precinct retired for service after 34 years of service on March 25, 2007. Brother to retired Seattle Police Officer Vinette Tichi #4562.
I was hired as a recruit on October 18, 1972 and commissioned on March 23, 1973 after attending the 1st and last 6-month SPD Academy. I started my police career with the King County Sheriff’s Office from October 18, 1971 to October 18, 1972 while waiting for SPD to open hiring. I liked patrol and stayed there during my entire career, working all patrol precincts except North. I also very much enjoyed being a Hostage Negotiator for 25+ years. I will always value Bob Holter for having faith in me early on by showing me that if you’re right, you’re right and if you’re wrong, you’re wrong. My partner Jack Lyons for always demonstrating the highest level of integrity. Bill Tanner for teaching me the real skills in negotiation and partner, Tag Gleason, for showing me that you can have fun and still do a good job.
My wife of 21 years, Virgie, and I will remain in West Seattle, enjoy our grandchildren, and now explore the back roads of America. Thanks to all for an enjoyable and rewarding career.
- o **Craig Vold:** I joined the Department on January 2, 1970. The Smith Tower was the tallest building in Seattle and it was still a small town. In the years that followed I worked Patrol North, South, East, and West; followed by about 23 years in various follow-up units. During my 37 years I came to appreciate the men and women I worked with above all else. They would come to my rescue when I was in trouble on the streets and gave me support in my personal time of trouble. I hope that this brotherhood survives for you. It is the heart of Department. I am leaving the 26th of March. Goodbye & best of luck. Thank you for your many kindnesses. Take care of one another and your families.
- o **Larry Nolting:** During my time with SPD, I’ve had a good ride. The following listed

people are just some of the many who made it even better. Sgt. Fred Ibuki is one you’ll do anything for, regardless, like he would do for you. He’s a great guy to work for and a real friend. Thanks, Fred. Sgt. Bernie Miller always leveled with me and only expected the same in return. Thanks, Bernie. Capt. Dan Oliver has always been and still is there for the officer. Thank you. Ray Lambe (the 6:00 a.m. beer can alarm). Nuff said. John Sullivan and Fred Kilmer, regardless the type of day they may have had, were willing to go to the West Pct. Training center (the Greek Village) and work with us on our take downs, submissions, etc. Thanks guys. Mike Allen and I used to work a car separately together. No matter how it went, we got the job done. Thanks, Mike. Ernie Hall (my identical twin) and Larry Miller had a precise way of dealing with any situation and I’ve always admired that. Nick Carnovale was the “Crossword King” who would help me when I was stuck with my “paperwork.” Jerry Teller (Jelly Terror), I’m letting you know I’ll be around if you get into another argument. Remember what you told me about the term “pond scum?” Sgt. Wayne Ferguson and I worked together before his promotion. It was like watching an artist at work when dealing with any combative individual. It was obviously done correctly because we didn’t get any complaints. Thanks again, Wayne, for showing me the way. Like I said, these are but a few of the many that made this a good ride and an honor to have done so. Thanks again everybody.

LEOFF II member retiring is:

- o **Juanita M. Aaron-Alexis**, #4550, Seattle Police Officer-Patrol/Detective-Juvenile, retired for service on March 31, 2007 following 26 years of sworn service. Juanita served in Patrol, both South and North Precincts and as a Juvenile Detective. She was well liked and respected by all who knew her.

We wish to congratulate all of our Seattle Police retirees and wish them well in their retirement years.

Note From the Police Pension Office re: Eyeglasses

Most of our Seattle Police LEOFF I active and retired members are well aware that the Seattle Police Pension Board raised the maximum allowance for eyeglass hardware to \$700/annually in 2007. The following information bears repeating and this has been published before in the GUARDIAN and at Retired Officers’ Association meetings:

- o Those so entitled may purchase ONE pair of eyeglasses annually, PROVIDING THERE IS A PRESCRIPTION CHANGE SINCE YOUR LAST PAIR OF EYEGLASSES WERE PURCHASED.
- o The cap of \$700/annually for vision hardware DOES **NOT** MEAN YOU CAN PURCHASE AS MANY PAIRS OF EYEGLASSES AS YOU MAY WANT AS LONG AS YOU DON’T EXCEED THE \$700 CAP. ONE PAIR OF GLASSES TO A CUSTOMER!
- o Police Pension Office OPTIC SERVICE FORMS are NO LONGER REQUIRED. It’s up to the member to know if there is a prescription change and the specifications

of your new eyeglasses must be included on your eyeglass bill/request for reimbursement in order to be processed and paid. Having said all of this, if you have SPECIAL EYEGLASS NEEDS, call your Seattle Police Pension Office and we’ll be happy to work with you to see that your vision needs are met.

Retired Seattle Police Officers’ Association News

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting March 14th 2007

President Caalim called the meeting to order in the dining room of the Four Seas Restaurant at noon, March 14th 2007

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Riley Brice.

A roll call of officers was held with Caalim, Nick Bulpin, Mike Slessman, Paul Peterson, Pat Munter, Jerry Taylor and Ted Fonis present with LaVelle Thresher, John Sullivan, Dave Grayson and Dick Rovig excused.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report with a motion to accept the report and pay the bills being made by Slessman, seconded by Joe Tolliver and passed.

Caalim outlined a letter to be sent to the LEOFF 1 Coalition. The letter addresses the concerns of the RSPOA and gives direction to our Coalition Representative, Jerry Taylor. Taylor was recently appointed by Caalim to the RSPOA Executive Board as Trustee.

Caalim gave a pension office report stating that Don Cameron is in Phoenix suffering from low blood pressure and cancer. Elmer Whittman is recovering from surgery to repair circulatory problems in his legs. Ernie Randall will undergo day surgery next week.

Caalim reported the Athletic Association has withdrawn its request for financial aid from the RSPOA to fund an advisory study for their current financial difficulties. Caalim stated they had found other alternatives.

President Caalim appointed Mike Slessman and Jerry Taylor to the Audit committee to perform the annual audit in accordance with RSPOA By laws. He then asked Pat Munter to review the By-laws and prepare a report of necessary changes for the next board meeting.

A door prize of an adult beverage was won by Paul Peterson. Another adult beverage was given to Pat Murphy to celebrate his up-coming 75th birthday on St Patrick’s Day. The beverages were donated by Sally and Phil Cruse.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30 and the 27 people in attendance enjoyed another great lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer

April 2007 Retirees' Birthdays

William S. Abbey, Gary C. Allenby, Mark D. Amundson, Jerry M. Andersen, Terrance D. Augerson, Brian M. Avey, Danny S. Barrett, Larry F. Baylor, Clayton E. Bean, William A. Benson, Ernest L. Bisset, William F. Brown, Samuel W. Buckley, David N. Buff, Michael G. Burke, John E. Camp, Marsha H. Camp, Geraldine M. Campbell (William "Rusty"), Paul M. Cannon, James H. Carleton, Ross H. Carmen, Myrle L. Carner, Raymond L. Carroll, James O. Clark, William L. Conn, Ward W. Crow, Joan H. Dolan (Terry), Eldon C. Doty, Paul P. Eblin, Bonnie M. Enault (Isaiah C. "Ike"), John L. Erickson, Phillip M. Gaylord, James C. Geiser, Hugh A. Hall, Rand P. Hannon, Allan A. Heinzlmeir, Gerald L. Hicklin, James W. Hinterberger, David F. Hortin, Peter M. Huff, Joseph J. Jankauskas, Arvid H. Jensen, Robert E. Johanson, Chester W. Johnson, Elmer M. Johnston, James A. Kegley, Fred L. Krohn, Harold E. Kulgren, Wayne D. Larkin, John E. Larson, Jr, Jacqueline Lawson (Walter), Dorothy M. Leedle (Lyle), Richard L. Lemoine, Pauline A. Litzenberger (Clayton), David P. Mackenzie, Terri L. Macmillan (Crist) (Donald E.), Toni T. Malliet, Edward C. Maser, Gladys Matheson (Malcolm W. "Mal"), Donald R. Matthews, Robert E. McKechnie, Garry W. McLenaghan, Cynthia L. Miller (Caldwell), Esther R. Millet (Wesley "Red"), Donn D. Mills, Doral D. Mittness, Richard W. Murray, Michael A. Nelson, Dennis C. Nixdorf, Sr., Harvey Noot, Jon M. Olson, Henrietta A. Ottersen (Robert "Bob"), I. Pauline Painter (Val F.), Timothy A. Perry, Julie Rhodes (Thomas "T.J."), Robert E. Rice, Carl W. Sandbeck, William E. Schueler, Frances C. Smith (Thomas R. "Tommy"), George C. Sorensen, Wendel K. Stewart, Laurence A. Stewart, Marvin L. Stinson, Keith W. Stringfellow, Donald E. Turner, P. Craig Vandeputte, Rudolph J. Vanderlaan, Edward P. Vanleeuwen, Betty L. Wengorra (Ferd), Doris M. Willeke (Wayne), Larry E. Wilson, Robert L. Woolverton,

Last Ring

KNOCK ON WOOD! There have been no new deaths of retired Seattle Police Officers since retired Chief of Police Bob Hanson's sudden death on February 14, 2007.

That being said, we wish to note the passing of an old friend of many active and retired Seattle Police Officers:

Vernon W. Towne, retired Seattle Municipal Traffic Court Judge passed away peacefully on February 27, 2007 at Swedish Hospital. He was 96 years of age upon his death. Traffic Court sessions before Judge Towne and City Prosecutor Bob Elias were something to behold. May he rest in peace.

Run with Cops Not From Them

5 K Run/Walk at Marymoor Park

All proceeds benefit the Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation (WSLEMF) and the International Association of Women Police (IAWP)

Saturday, June 23rd, 2007

Marymoor Park, Redmond, WA--Ball Field #5/Picnic Area "B"
The Run/Walk will be held along the Sammamish Trail Head
All Fitness levels are invited. Bring the family!
For more info or to register, go to www.runwithcops.com

Ol' Blue Clan Reunion

By Dick Rovig, SPD Retired

Over 100 RSPOA members met under sunny skies and 95+ degree temperature in the Turf Club at the Phoenix Turf Paradise Racetrack to celebrate the 2007 Ol' Blue Clan Reunion on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. A great time was had by all, especially those who bet on the right ponies.

The next day, 24 intrepid golfers braved the 99 degree heat to participate in the Ol' Blue Clan Golf Scramble at the Hillcrest Golf course in Sun City West and then enjoyed a reception at the Peoria condo of Ol' Clan's hosts Pat and Joan Munter.

Watch for the upcoming Call Box for a full report. Pictures from the event are also posted on the RSPOA website <http://rspoa.homestead.com>

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Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith,Pawn Shop Squad



Let me begin by saying that I applaud Mayor Greg Nickel’s bold proposal to add 105 new officers to the roles of the department. The 105 new positions that have been proposed are definitely a good starting point to getting the staffing level of this department where it needs to be for public and officer safety. The challenge to recruit, test and hire these new personnel just became greater, as these new bodies will be hired in addition to the normal attrition. It behooves each of us to actively recruit friends and family who would make a good police officer and have them take the SPD entrance exam. Whether it is recruiting, sitting on an oral board, serving as a FTO or just being a good ambassador for the SPD, we all have an important role in shaping the future of the rank and file. Get involved!

One of the most unlikely people I can think of rocked the SPAA Pavilion during the 2007 edition of the MC Drill Team Talent Show. Sergeant Dave Sweeney sauntered across the stage clad in a green velour blazer, red leather pants and black chucks and belted out his rendition of the 6 minute and 41 second Led Zeppelin song, “Babe I’m Gonna Leave You.” I have known Dave since our days back in “The Claw” where he was an exceptional student and a super fast track man, setting the school record in the 300-meter hurdles in 1982. While he didn’t make anyone forget Robert Plant, “Dave the Wave” showed a side of him I didn’t know existed!

I encourage any member of SPOG with viewpoints that run contrary to the majority views normally expressed in *The Guardian*, to submit their articles as they pertain to issues of politics with law enforcement, or political decisions that effect law enforcement. I received some “passionate” feedback since the last issue regarding equal time for differing views. I would love to see some differing views, and we at *The Guardian* have never round filed an article with a more progressive viewpoint on the hot button issues of the day. The mere fact is that these differing viewpoints are very rarely submitted, or are submitted with content not congruent with *Guardian* editorial guidelines. All submissions are subject to review to ensure they are germane to law enforcement issues or other issues pertaining to SPOG business. Sorry, we will not be printing articles about how George Bush is a war criminal and a terrorist; you can send those to the *Seattle Weekly*. So if you have differing political views surrounding the law enforcement issues de jour, I encourage you to put pen to paper and let your voice be heard.

Until next month, be safe out there! As usual, feel free to contact me with your comments and concerns at spogguardian@yahoo.com. “The rule is perfect: in all matters of opinion our adversaries are insane.”- Mark Twain.

Calendar of Events

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 8th

SPAA Monthly Meeting at the SPAA Office
Tuesday, April 10th at 1200hours

Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office
Wednesday, April 11th at 1300 hours

SPAA General Meeting at the Pavilion
Friday, April 20th at 1730 hours

Seattle Police Officers’ Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office
Wednesday, April 25th at 2000 hours

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